

over against each evil we can set a good. The ③
position of women was improved. Charity to the poor
abounded. Animals were treated more kindly. Slavery
grew milder. The sympathies of men broadened. Law
showed a gentler spirit. A harsh skepticism toward religion
had prevailed among the educated classes during the best
days of the Republic; but under the Empire, this gave
way to more devout religious feeling. All this was
true without referring to the Christian part of
society, of which we shall speak later.

An interesting "back to the land" movement, proved
that Roman Gentlemen could still value simple delights

above the artificial pressures of the Court. Mortal
wrote of country life with true enthusiasm, -
where a man can be "rich with the spoils of the game
and field, unfold before the fire his well-filled hunting
nets, lift the leaping fish from the quivering line,
draw forth the yellow honey from the cask, while
his own eggs are cooking over a fire that has not
cost a penny. My wish [he concludes] is that
the man who loves not me may not love this."

Servilius was an iron-handed soldier who had been
commander of the praetorian in Hadrian's time. At